Polar Remote Sensing: Through polar remote sensing interesting seasonal variation in sea-ice cover has been observed and large-scale features in Antarctica have also been identified confirming to the known surveyed features. Similarly, TOPEX/Poseidon data has been analyzed to study the currents, eddites and convergence zone in Antarctic waters.

Rail over-bridge at Kadipikonda

4021. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHIR K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a demand for the last four decades for a rail over-bridge at Kadipikonda in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether thousands of people took out a rally in February, 2002, for construction of the over-bridge;

(c) if so, the action proposed in matter; and

(d) the allocation made therefor, during this budget;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. State Govt. first raised the issue in 1985 only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The work for construction of Road Over Bridge was sanctioned in 1992-93 on cost sharing basis. Even Estimate amounting to Rs. 13.73 crore was also sanctioned in March' 1993. Work could not be taken up because of change of Road Over Bridge location by State Govt. Now, joint survey has been conducted and General Arrangement Drawing prepared as per latest site details which is under finalization.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1 crore has been provided during 2002-03 for this work

Quantum of Rail freight

†4022. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of freight being carried by trains in the country is decreasing continuously;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the percentage of the total freight carried by the Railways in the country during 1990-91; and

(c) the percentage thereof in the year 2000-2001 and the reasons for continuous decrease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The figures of the percentage of total freight carried by the railways in the country are not maintained. However, during 1990-1991 total originating freight loading on Indian Railways was 318.40 Million Tonnes which increased to 473.50 Million Tonnes in 2000-2001.

Bunglings in tenders for Railway Works in Malaysia and Indonesia

†4023. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Malaysia and Indonesia have signed agreements with the Ministry of Railways for improvement of their railway systems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways have not signed any agreements with Government of Malaysia and Indonesia in this regard. However, IRCON, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Malaysia for double tracking of Railway line between Ipoh Padang Besar in Malaysia and with Govt. of Indonesia for design, development and construction of major infrastructure & Port development work in South Sumatera Province which includes construction of a new Railway line. The cost of these projects is expected to be US$ 1.5 billion and US$ 260 million respectively.

Theft of goods of Rail Passengers

4024. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loss on account of theft of goods, including luggage of passengers, is consistently increasing over Indian Railways, particularly in Southern, South-Central and South-Eastern Railways;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.